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REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-20 are pending in this application. Claims 5, 9, 11, 14-15, 18 and 20 have been amended to correct typographical errors. As such, the above amendments to claims 5, 9, 11, 14-15, 18 and 20 do not invoke the restrictions of the Doctrine of Equivalents under Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 122 S. Ct. 1831 (2002). Consequently, applicants should be accorded the full scope of their claims under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In view of both the amendments presented above and the following discussion, the applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102. Thus, applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

REJECTIONS

A. 35 U. S. C. § 102

1. Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-20 are not anticipated by Khan

Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-20 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Khan (U. S. Patent 6,242,831 issued June 5, 2001).

Applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by this reference.

Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-20 are directed to a disc drive storage system (see, specification at page 1, paragraph 2). In particular, claim 1 includes:

"A disc drive storage system comprising:
a housing having a central axis;
a stationary member that is fixed with respect to the housing and
coaxial with the central axis;

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a stator fixed with respect to the housing;
a rotatable member that is rotatable about the central axis
with respect to the stationary member;
a rotor supported by the rotatable member and magnetically
coupled to the stator;
at least one data storage disc attached to and coaxial with
the rotatable member;
an actuator supporting a head proximate to the data storage
disc for communicating with the disc; and
a hydrodynamic bearing interconnecting the stationary
member and the rotatable member, the bearing having at least one
working surface including a wear resistant, low frictional coating thereon
having a thickness within a range of about 3000 nanometers to about 5
microns."

In claim 1, at least one working surface of a hydrodynamic bearing,
interconnecting a stationary member and a rotatable member, includes a wear
resistant low frictional coating having a thickness within a range of about 3000
nanometers to about 5 microns (see, specification at page 7, paragraph 27).

Khan describes a spindle motor of a disc-drive data storage device (see,
Khan at column 1, lines 11-15). The drive components of the spindle motor
include a rotor and a shaft (see, Khan at column 2, lines 66-67). A low friction
hard coating may be formed on either of the inner surface of the rotor or the
radial surface of the shaft having a thickness between about 1 nm to about 2000
nm (see, Khan at column 3, lines 9-37).

Khan does not describe or suggest a hydrodynamic bearing having a wear
resistant low frictional coating having a thickness within a range of about 3000
nanometers to about 5 microns. Rather, Khan only teaches a low friction hard
coating formed on either of the inner surface of the rotor or the radial surface of

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the shaft having a thickness between about 1 nm to about 2000 nm. Thus, claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-20 are patentable over Khan.

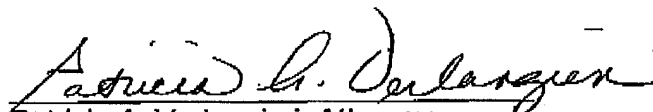
CONCLUSION

Thus, the applicants submit that none of the claims, presently in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102. Consequently, the applicants believe that all of these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants earnestly solicit reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue.

If, however, the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist in any of these claims that require a continuation of the adverse action therefore, it is requested that the Examiner telephone, Ms. Patricia A. Verlangieri, at (732) 530-9404, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

4/4/03


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